



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Robert G. Burnley  
Director

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December 17, 2004

Dr. Robert B Stroube, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Health  
P. O. Box 2448  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2448

Dear Bob:

DEQ held a series of public outreach meetings in October and November at our seven regional offices. One of the recurring themes we heard throughout the State was a concern over the land application of biosolids. Of particular concern was a belief on the part of many of the concerned citizens that the State was not taking into account recent studies that may indicate human health risks related to biosolids. If you go to our web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/meetings/homepage.html> you will see a summary of the public comments.

Because the primary responsibility for the land application of biosolids resides with your agency, I know that these concerns will be of particular interest to you. We can provide the references to the studies cited to by the public, if you would like your staff to review them.

These comments came to DEQ as a result of our community involvement initiative to learn more about the environmental interests of Virginians across the state. We have emphasized with the public that we will help address concerns they raised, and I will be happy to work with you to accomplish that. Please let me know if DEQ can provide any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert G. Burnley", followed by a vertical line.

Robert G. Burnley

RGB:dlm